

# Report on Belfast Visit

April 10-14, 2010

Frank Talty, Steve Tello and Ann Marie Hurley

## **Purpose:**

The principal reason for this visit to Belfast was to meet with Queen's Pro Vice-Chancellor Gerry McCormac before his departure from Queen's for his new position as Vice-Chancellor at Stirling University in Scotland. Gerry had indicated that he would be leaving Belfast at the end of April, and his successor should be known by mid-April, thus the timing of the visit. It was further planned that we could firm up our existing contacts and perhaps generate a new collaboration with the Business School at Queen's.

## **Meetings at Queen's University:**

We met with several staff at Queen's on Monday and Tuesday (the 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>):

### **Gerry McCormac:**

We spent nearly an hour and a half with Gerry. He divulged the name of his successor, who actually had not yet been formally announced (he was later that day). He is Professor Tony Gallagher, Head of the Education School at QUB. Gerry was very reassuring that the Lowell-Queen's relationship was firm, that Tony, as an existing member of the Queen's staff, would continue the existing collaborations (One concern of ours was the possibility of an external candidate who could bring his or her own connections to the office). We gave Gerry a full report on the status of all the current activities and collaborative work between Lowell and QUB, with which he was largely already familiar. Steve Tello described the UML work on Innovation and Entrepreneurship and his thoughts on possible new opportunities in that area.

Gerry expressed an interest in Lowell engaging with Stirling upon his taking office there. The idea of a Center for Gaelic Studies was floated.

On Tuesday, we received a call from Gerry's office that Professor Trevor Newsom had been designated as the new Queen's liaison with Lowell, and a dinner meeting with Trevor was arranged quickly while we were still in Belfast.

### **Trevor Newsom:**

Professor Newsom is the Director of Research at Queen's, and has been named as the liaison to UML.

We described the existing collaborative work between Lowell and Queen's to Trevor over dinner. Steve Tello described the M2D2 center and the UML MBA program and his meeting earlier in the day with Maura McAdam from the Queen's Business School. Trevor asked for more information on M2D2. He described how Queen's has embedded entrepreneurship elements into the curriculum across disciplines, for which the University was recognized by the UK. He also described the campus wide entrepreneurship undergraduate competition that QUB had funded over the past two years.

These ideas may have some applicability at UML. Steve will follow up.

Trevor informed us of another initiative from Massachusetts. Massachusetts Senate President Therese Murray visited Belfast in support of a Health care project in Northern Ireland.

We discussed plans for a second Emerging Technologies Conference, like the one held at Lowell last October, this time to be held in Ireland. Trevor suggested that it might be preferable to hold it at Dublin City University next, and he would be supportive of it, including promoting it to Queen's faculty. Ann Marie will follow up with Brian Maccraith at DCU the following week.

We discussed finally the possibility of a U Mass Lowell Ice Hockey game in Belfast next year. Plans were underway between Lowell and Northeastern to organize such an event. Trevor suggested that if such an event comes about, one way to collaborate would be by having Lowell student players conduct a hockey clinic for Queen's students (where hockey is not a well known sport). In a related matter, a sport common to both Universities is Crew. He suggested the possibility of a Lowell-Queen's rowing match.

We invited Trevor to visit Lowell. He was receptive, and suggested further that Queen's Vice-Chancellor Peter Gregson should also visit. He would look into that.

### **Maura McAdams:**

On Monday, we met with Professor Maura McAdam of the Management School. Steve Tello had arranged this meeting to explore, among other things: Student and faculty exchange between the two schools of Management, their programs in embedded entrepreneurship and their student "hatchery" where students are provided resources to develop their own businesses.

### **Valerie Miller and Dominic Bryan:**

Valerie is the coordinator of the Queen's International Summer School. Dominic is the Chair of the Irish Studies program. We discussed plans for this year's group of UML students at Queen's with Valerie, which is already underway. With Dominic we discussed the plans at Lowell for a BA/MA in Peace and Conflict Studies, as well as the plans for a Masters in Public Policy, and the possibility of a Queen's collaboration with each. He was interested and we will follow up. He arranged a meeting with faculty in



the School of Law in connection with the Public Policy plans. We also discussed faculty exchange and agreed to share faculty CVs.

**Ciaran O'Kelly and John Morrison:**

Ciaran is a Professor of Law and Governance. Professor Morrison is the Head of the School of Law and Governance. We discussed the proposed Lowell programs in Peace Studies and Public Policy. Their course offerings in Human rights seemed a good fit for both programs, and there was talk of a semester study at Queen's by students in the proposed UML programs. They also have coursework in Criminology that might be of interest to UML students. Another Masters in the School of some interest is their LLM in Environmental Law and Sustainable Development.

**Bridget Carey:**

Bridget is the International Students person at Queen's. She has actually visited us at Lowell before. We talked specifics concerning UML students studying for a full semester beginning this fall. She prepared a step by step guide for us to use for enrolling students into the right coursework. We looked at credit award issues, the need for Visas and tuition payment processes.

**Colm Donnelly:**

Colm is the coordinator of the Archeology project already well along in planning. We discussed details of his visit this August, with two of his colleagues, Harry Welsh and Ronan McHugh. Harry was at the meeting, as was the Head of the Archeology school Professor Keith Bennett. We discussed schedules, safety issues and equipment storage. We will follow up with Rich Lemoine on safety issues for the test trenches at St. Patrick's Church in August. We will also check with Rick Sherburne regarding tents for the site. We talked about adding some students to this summer's test work as part of a seed grant application.

**Irish Politics taught live from Belfast:**

On Tuesday afternoon (4pm Belfast time, 11am Lowell time), I broadcast my class in Irish Politics from the Queen's campus with my guest, Dr. John Garry, an expert in Northern Irish politics. With assistance from UML/ IT's Mike Lucas the class, via IP Videoconference, went extremely well.